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CHILDSBURY.

By Henry A. M. Smith.

In the account of the old town of Childsbury, published in the October N°. of this Magazine, vol. XIV, p. 198, it was stated that the writer had never seen a copy of the plan of that town. Since then, through the kindness of Miss Anne S. Deas of Summerville, a plat of the Town has been placed in his hands and is now published with this addition to the account of the Town.

This plát is on parchment but with time much of the writing has become hopelessly indecipherable. The endorsement states that the Town was laid out in 1707. This endorsement is signed by James Child himself. In the deed conveying some lots to Stephen Sarrasin, referred to in the previous article, the date of the Town plat is stated as 25 September, 1714, but among the papers loaned the writer, by Miss Deas, is a deed from James Child to his son Isaac Child, dated 20 Sept^{r}., 1708, transferring "all "that moyety or halfe part of ye Strawberry Bloufe adjoin-"ing ye River Excepting Six Lotts given for a Schoole to "Gether wth ye Marsh between ye bay & ye River Buting & "bounding as in ye Towne platt Uppon ye River South "Westerly and North Westerly bounded out wth Stakes & "South Easterly uppon ye Broad & Midle Street from y^{e} "River to y^{ee} Parsonage Land & North Easterly by ye Streete "between ye Towne & ye Parsonage Land to Gether wth all "ye Streets & Apurtenances Containing to gether Sixty two "Acres & halfe all ways Excepting the Six Lotts wth y^{e} "Marsh between ye River & ye Bay given for a Schoole to be "built Uppon as is Excepted & Alsoe Excepting one Acre "& halfe of Land as it is bounded out wth Locuss Trees to "Build a Church uppon & alsoe that five hundred acres of "ye Strawberry Land & Plantation bounding North West-"erly uppon Mebkin Plantation together wth ye Ceader "Swampe adjoining to ye River Southwesterly have Given "granted & by these Presents doe freely Clearly and Ab-"solutely give & Grante Unto my S^{d} son Isaac Child to him

"& his heirs Lawfully of his Body for Ever To have all y^e^
"said Land & to Keape & tend the ferry I also Give him
"one Lott Cald ye ferry Lott Soe Longe as he keeps y^e^
"ferry uppon ye Condition that he ye S^d^ Isaac Child or his
"heirs Shall not Wilfully hinder ye Aforsd Moyety or halfe
"part of ye towne hereafter from being settled But to
"Promote it to ye Utmost of his or their Power."

This deed refers to a Town plan in existence and that plan was evidently the old parchment one dated 1707.

On this old plat no names are given to the streets—at least if they were ever written they are wholly indecipherable— and in the above deed the street referred to is not by name but as "ye Broad & Midle Streete from ye River."

There is also among Miss Deas' papers a lease dated 1 October 1712, from James Child styling himself of "Childsberry Towne" to William Skinner, whereby he leases "all
"that Tann House with the Barke Barne & Tanfats with
"all the Land Buting to Blackwells Street and Northeast-
"ernly to the River Bay with a Line Southeasternly fifty-
"five degree to Kitts Spring & the same coast to the Ceader
"Swampe with all the Timber & trees & underwood to fell
"at his pleasure to Clear the ground for Corne & rice &
"make fencing * * * (except one acre of the hill if
"there should be Use for a fort not other waies & one
"Chaine Square for à pond)."

There was a later plat with the names of the streets. In 1893 M^rs^. A. G. Rose copied a plat which was lent her by the late M^r^. Elias Ball, together with a number of papers referring to Childsbury.

According to the statement on this plat it was made by Francis Lejau for the Trustees of the Free School at Childsberry but no date is given. On this plat the names and widths of the streets are given, but the names of those to the North and South could not be deciphered by her. This plat was probably copied from the plat of 1714 referred to in the deed to Sarrasin, at any rate it is a later plat than the one in Miss Deas' possession, which appears to have been the original one made by James Child himself. On the last mentioned plat the explanation on the left hand margin is as follows:

"A plan of Childsberry Town on the Western branch of "Cooper River containing One Hundr^{d} & Twenty-five Acres "of Land Lay^{d} Out this Forme by M^{r}. James Child deceas^{d}. "Who gave this Land for this Publick use. Besides 600 acres "of (illegible) Land to ye Inhabitants of the Towne for "Comoning of Two Cows to a Lott & no more. One (illeg-"ible) of ground to build a Church on & for ye Church yard. "Five acres to build a college on, a piece of Land for y^{e} "Market in ye middle of the Town. One Acre to Erect a "Fort on One Lott N°. 16 for ye building a Latin School on "also 100 pounds towards ye building ye s^{d} school and 500 "pounds ye Interest of wch for ye Sallery of a Master. All "which this Charitable and Public Spirited Person Be-"queath^{d} by his Last Will for ye Uses Above

"Mentioned

"To the

"Gentlemen whose names are in ye mergent That are y^{e} "Trustees & subscribers to the Free School at Childsberry. "This Plan is to them Presented for their Use by Their "Humble Servant.

"Francis Lejau."

"Explanation.

"Childs Square C The College No 96
"Dixe's Square D The Churchyard No 120
"The Market No 50 The Lott for ye School No 16
"In all 184 Lotts

"All ye Front lots are 330 foot long and 66 foot wide or "....acres in all ye lots that have 8 lots in a "Square are 115 foot wide and 165 foot long..... "All ye Lotts that have 10 lots in a Square are 105 foot "wide and 165 foot long."

The names of the trustees and subscribers in the margin as deciphered by M^{rs}. Rose were:

1. M^{r}. Francis Williams Deceas^{d}.
2. Daniell Huger Esq
3. The Hon: Coll Thomas Broughton
4. M^{r}. James Child Deceas^{d}. The.....Founder
5. Nathaniel Broughton

6. M^r^. John Gough
7. The Rev. M^r^. Thomas Hasell
8. Anthony Bonneau
9. Capt John Harleston
10. Capt Elias Ball
11. Capt Thomas Cordes
12. M^r^. Andrew Broughton
13. John Gibbes Esq
14. M^r^. John Sabb
15. M^r^. Archibald Hamilton
16. M^r^. Francis Lejau
17. M^r^. (illegible)
18. M^r^. Zechariah Villepontoux

The minutes of the Trustees of the Free School from August, 1750, to July, 1754, are among the papers copied by M^rs^. Rose and show the school in active operation during that period. A memorandum by the late M^r^. W. J. Ball states that he remembered well the remains of a large portion of the wall of the school building as standing in his boyish days.

That the fairs were actually held appears from the following extracts from the Day Book of Elias Ball, viz:

"May 24, 1727. To the Pasturage of ye Horse at 40 / "per mo: the Horse taken away June 15. June 18— "Brought wth annother & stayed till 14 Days before ye fair "in Oct 4 Mo: at 40 / per month each.—1731—Octo George "Brown House Carpenter D^r^. To 50 / he had to "go to the fair £2.10. And in the Carolina Gazette for the week 8th to 15th Oct 1750 this notice appears— "Childsberry Fair will begin on Tuesday 30th inst and con- "tinue 'till the Friday Evening following as usual. There "will be some pretty diversions."

From a printed paper purporting to be a copy of a petition or memorial of James Child to Parliament it appears that he was "late of the Parish of Amersham in the County "of Bucks" and not from Coleshill in the Parish of Augmondi in the County of Hertford as supposed in the previous article in this Magazine. This petition states that Lord Chancellor Jeffreys in 1684 had cast James Child into

custody for not delivering up an exemplification in his possession of a charter of several liberties and privileges granted to the Parish of Amersham by King Henry the Fourth, and that in consequence of this hard usage "the "said James Child was put to Exceeding Charges which "with the loss of his Time, and the Noise of his being a "Prisoner and that the late Lord Chancellour had Threat-"ened his Ruine made his Creditors call in their Moneys "whereby he was forced to Abscond and to sell an Estate "worth above 2000 l for 1800 l and hath at this time a Wife "and Eight Children and nothing to depend on but the "Charity of Friends."

A note in the handwriting of John Ball of Kensington states that James Child being forced to fly came to South Carolina and that his son Isaac was the only son who came to America

The first evidence on the record of James Child's presence in Carolina is in 1698, and as Lord Chancellor Jeffrys and the Stuart regime ended in 1688 it does not appear to be certain that he came to Carolina for refuge.

The will of James Child mentions no descendants except his son Isaac Child and Isaac Child's children and two other grandchildren, viz: Robert Dixe and Hannah Dixe. The following record of the descendants of James Child is taken from Isaac Child's Bible, viz:

"Isaac Child & Marg^{t}. Tunsteed Daug^{r}. of Fran^{s}. Tun-"steed and Marg^{t}. his wife was married June ye 1: 1710

"James Child son of Isaac Child was born feb^{y} ye 15: "1712 and Dyed feb^{y} 21st 1712

"Willi^{m} Child Son of Isaac Child was born ye 12 of feb^{y} "1713

"Sarah Child Daugh^{r} of Isaac Child was born March y^{e} "11: 1715

"Isaac Child Son of Isaac Child was born May ye 18: "1717

"Hannah Child Daugh^{r} of Isaac Child was born Aug^{t} "27: 1719.

"Lydia Child Daugh^{r} of Isaac Child was born Sept^{r}. "ye 22: 1721

"Maray Child Daugh^{r} of Isaac Child was born ye 20 of "May 1724

"Eliza^{h} Child Daugh^{r} of Isaac Child was born Octr y^{e} "28: 1727 and Dyed 1728

"My Father Isaac Child Dyed Nove^{r}. ye 10: 1734 Aged 59

"My Brother Willm Child Died March ye 24: 1738 Aged "25

"My Mother Marg^{t}. Child Died Novr ye 23: 1738 Aged "52

"My Brother Isaac Child Died feb^{y}. ye 23: 1742 Aged 25

"My Sister Mary Thomas Died Jany ye 3: 1744 Aged 20

"My Sister Sarah Harleston Died Janery ye 12: 1756 "Aged 41

"My Sister Hannah Harleston Died April 20: 1763 "Aged 44

"Lydia Ball Died April 1st. 1765 Aged 43 years & 6 "months

"Mary Child Daugh^{r} to Isaac Child was married to Saml Thomas June ye 5: 1740

"Lydia Child was married to George Chicken feb^{y} ye 5. "1740

Catherine Chicken Daugh^{r} of George & Lydia his wife "was born Jany^{y} ye 29: 1741 friday 3 o clock

"Hannah Child was married to John Harleston Feby ye 19: 1740.

"George Chicken Died March ye 2: 1745 aged 36

"Lydia Chicken was married to Elias Ball Jany 28: 1747"

There is no record of it in the Bible but it is elsewhere stated in these papers that Sarah Child married Nicholas Harleston.

The earliest mention of the name Strawberry appears to be in the Act of 17 February 1705 which declares that "y^{e} "Inhabitants of the Eastern & Western Branches of ye T "of Cooper River are willing at their own proper Cost & "Charge to make a fferry at y^{ee} Plantation of M^{r}. James "Childs Known comonly by ye name of ye Strawberry "Plantation."